

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKETING DEPARTMENT

NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING

DOCKET NO. 2005-342-C

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-280, Comtel Telcom Assets LP (“Comtel”), d/b/a VarTec Telecom, Clear Choice Communications, Excel Telecommunications and VarTec Solutions, have filed an Application to the Public Service Commission (“Commission”) of South Carolina for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services within South Carolina. Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-310 and the rules and regulations of the Commission, Comtel and Vartec Telecom, Incorporated (“VarTec”), Excel Telecommunications, Incorporated, (“Excel”) and VarTec Solutions, Incorporated (“VarTec Solutions”) (together, the “VarTec Companies”) (collectively with Comtel, the “Applicants”) also have petitioned the Commission for the approval to complete the acquisition by Comtel of certain assets of the Vartec Companies and to grant all relief requested to allow for the consummation of the transaction without undue delay. In addition, Comtel respectfully requests that the Commission regulate its local telecommunications services in accordance with the principles and procedures established for flexible regulation in Order No. 98-165 in Docket No. 97-467-C. Comtel also requests that the Commission regulate its long distance business services, consumer card services, private line services, and operator assisted service offerings in accordance with the principles and procedures established for alternative regulation in Order Nos. 95-1734 and 96-55 in Docket No. 95-661-C, as modified by Order No. 2001-997 in Docket No. 2000-407-C.

A copy of the Application is on file in the offices of the Commission, 101 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210, the Commission’s web site at www.psc.sc.gov, and is available from Bonnie Shealy, Esquire, Robinson, McFadden & Moore, PC, Post Office Box 944, Columbia, South Carolina 29202.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE a hearing on the above matter has been scheduled to begin at **11:30 a.m. on Monday, January 9, 2006**, before Hearing Examiner David Butler, Esquire in the Commission’s Meeting Room at 101 Executive Center Drive, Saluda Building, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

PLEASE BE ADVISED that pursuant to South Carolina Code of Laws – Section 58-9-280, as amended, the Commission will invoke the 120-day period allowed for consideration of this matter.

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter, as a party of record with the right of cross-examination should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure on or before **December 5, 2005** and indicate the amount of time required for his presentation. Please include an email address for receipt of future Commission correspondence in the Petition to Intervene. *Please refer to Docket No. 2005-342-C.*

Any person who wishes to testify and present evidence at the hearing, if scheduled, should notify the Docketing Department in writing at the address below, the Office of Regulatory Staff at Post Office Box 11263, Columbia, South Carolina 29211, and Bonnie Shealy, Esquire, at the above address, on or before **December 5, 2005** and indicate the amount of time required for his presentation. *Please refer to Docket No. 2005-342-C.*

Any person who wishes to be notified of the hearing, but does not wish to present testimony or be a party of record, may do so by notifying the Docketing Department in writing at the address below on or before **December 5, 2005**. *Please refer to Docket No. 2005-342-C.*

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: Any person who wishes to have his or her comments considered as part of the official record of this proceeding **MUST** present such comments, in person, to the Commission during the hearing.

Persons seeking information about the Commission’s Procedures should contact the Commission at (803) 896-5100.

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Attn: Docketing Department
Post Office Drawer 11649
Columbia, South Carolina 29211